

Noted Criminal Lawyer in S.A.

"We don't even have time for anything any more," top criminal lawyer Melvin Belli grumbled from his hotel room here Monday.

"People just sit around drinking their beer, watching that glass bag (television)," he asserted in denouncing what he called a "desperate society obsessed with vicarious thrills."

Belli, the San Francisco attorney best known for his medical-malpractice cases and defense of Jack Ruby, is in the Alamo City to speak before the San Antonio Trial Lawyer's Association Monday night.

"Charity isn't a four-bit piece in a tin can," Belli continued. "It's a two-bit piece in a tin can after you have heard the man's story."

Belli paced his room nervously, as usual speaking out frank-

ly on a wide range of subjects. From one topic to another, his mind leaped eagerly to blast everything from police brutality to "free love."

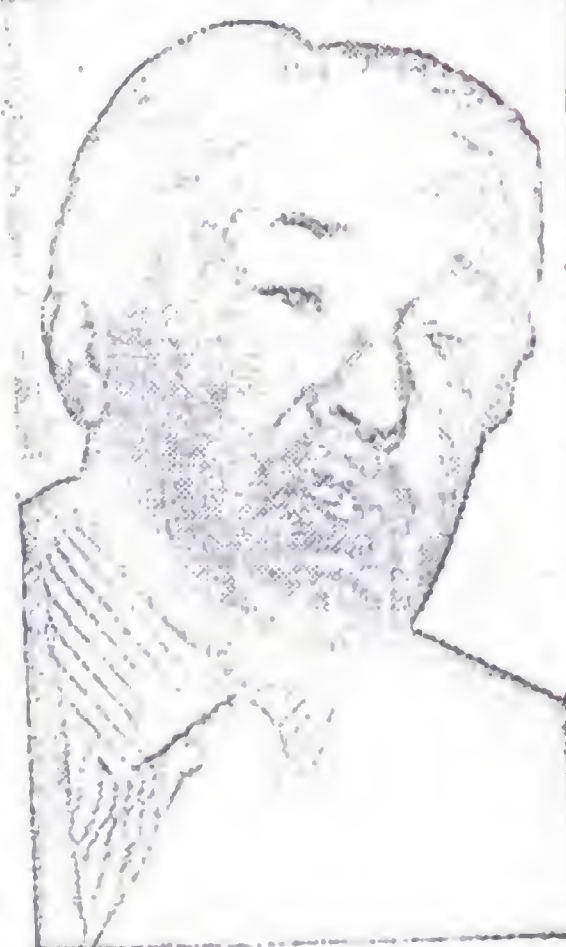
"Police want to set their own policies" he charged. "There are too many cases where they've given bum testimony. We are the employers. They are just paid to do what we tell them."

"We're gonna have some more stuff in Watts," Belli continued. "We're gonna have some trouble in Oakland too. We need to visit these communities. Not just hand out this superficial charity. Get to know your fellow man," Belli roared.

Turning to the Vietnam war, Belli, who recently returned from Southeast Asia, said: "We can never win that war. Those people have no concept of Washington, of democracy. You could kill every last one of them. It wouldn't do any good. We don't have the slightest idea of the problems in that country. I supported the war until I went and saw what was going on."

Belli said that one of the figures in the assassination probe of New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison called "me the other night. He told me that Garrison's investigation is going to wind up leaving a big black cloud hanging over LBJ. That's where it is going to end. I don't think it is right. It is unfair. I believe the Warren Commission was right. They will get convictions in New Orleans, but it will be on peripheral charges."

"We are facing the greatest conservative sweep this country has ever seen," Belli an-



MELVIN BELLI

... hits desperate society

nounced boldly. "It is being backed by money and power, which are synonymous. If you don't believe me, just watch and see."

Belli -
my letter to
him is
unanswered

self-
written